

Message Text

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SUBJ: SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA INTERVIEW WITH
HAROLD SCOTT

1. SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA OF JAN. 8 CARRIES
LENGTHY INTERVIEW WITH HAROLD SCOTT, PRESIDENT OF
US-USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL. HELD DURING HIS
LAST VISIT TO MOSCOW IN DECEMBER, INTERVIEW BEGINS WITH
SCOTT DESCRIBING FUNCTIONS AND STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL,
NOTING THAT NEW YORK OFFICE ALREADY OPEN, THAT STAFF
OF COUNCIL WILL CONSIST OF BOTH AMERICAN AND SOVIET
SPECIALISTS, AND THAT PURPOSE OF LATEST VISIT TO MOSCOW
WAS TO FIX DATE FOR CONVENING PLENARY SESSION OF BOARD
OF DIRECTORS AND TO AGREE ON BUDGET.

2. SCOTT THEN TURNS TO GENERAL QUESTION OF WIDENING
US-USSR TRADE RELATIONS. AS PROOF OF LARGE US MARKET
FOR SOVIET FINISHED PRODUCTS, SCOTT ASSERTS THAT SOVIET
AUTOMOBILES CAN BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO AMERICAN CONSUMERS.

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FURTHER, HE STATES, THERE CURRENTLY EXISTS SHORTAGE OF

AGRICULTURAL TRACTORS IN NORTHAMERICA, SO THAT GREAT DEMAND CAN BE EXPECTED FOR SOVIET TRACTORS IN AMERICAN MARKETS.

3. CONCERNING ADVERSE HOUSE ACTION ON CREDITS AND MFN, SCOTT IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT THIS ACTION "IN NO WAY" CORRESPONDS TO US NATIONALS INTERESTS AND IN FACT "HAS DAMAGED US ITSELF BY DEPRIVING MANY PEOPLE OF WORK THROUGH CURTAILMENT OF US EXPORTS." HOWEVER, HOUSE VOTE IS ONLY FIRST STEP AMONG MANY, AND BEFORE FINAL CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF TRADE BILL "MANY CHANGES CAN TAKE PLACE."

4. COMMENT: ARTICLE REPRESENTS LATEST HAPPENING IN STEADY DRUMBEAT OF SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARIES QUOTING PROMINENT AMERICANS BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ON NECESSITY FOR BILATERAL TRADE EXPANSION. TO NON- OR ONLY MODERATELY-INFORMED SOVIET READER, ARTICLE GIVES IMPRESSION THAT SCOTT SPEAKING AS MEMBER OF AND SPOKESMAN FOR ADMINISTRATION, THUS CONTINUING PRESS TACK OF POINTING UP DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES ON US-USSR TRADE QUESTION. IN ANY CASE, OPTIMISM AMONG SOVIET LEADERSHIP ON THIS QUESTION APPARENTLY STILL NOT FLAGGING. (INCIDENTALLY, PRESS CONTINUES TO REFER TO COUNCIL AS SOVIET-AMERICAN TRADE-ECONOMIC COUNCIL.)
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